

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:
 - 5 a database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers;
 - a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and
 - 10 an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a digital message packet addressed with only a MIN number, to perform a lookup in said database associating subscriber MIN numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said MIN number.
2. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
15 wherein:
said digital message packet is an e-mail.
3. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
wherein:
20 said database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.
4. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
25 wherein:
said MIN is a phone number.
5. In a message distribution center according to claim 4,
wherein:
30 said digital message packet is an e-mail.

6. In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

 said message distribution center forms a store and forward messaging platform.

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7. A method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

 receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a MIN only;

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 associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

 formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and

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 routing said new digital message packet.

8. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

 said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

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9. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

 said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

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10. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 9, wherein:

 said MIN is a phone number.

11. The method of providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

5 said phone number only addressed digital message packet
is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a
service bureau.

12. The method of providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

10 said MIN is a phone number.

13. The method of providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

15 said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier
providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

14. The method of providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

20 said routable address is an e-mail address.

15. Apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber, comprising:

25 means for receiving an initial digital message packet
addressed to a MIN only;

MIN;

means for formulating a new digital message packet
including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly
addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing
service to said MIN; and

30 means for routing said new digital message packet.

16. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:
said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

5 17. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 16, wherein:
said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

10 18. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 17, wherein:
said MIN is a phone number.

15 19. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:
said phone number only addressed digital message packet
is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a
service bureau.

20 20. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:
said MIN is a phone number.

25 21. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:
said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier
providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

30 22. The apparatus for providing a phone number only
experience to a subscriber according to claim 21, wherein:
said routable address is an e-mail address.